

REMARKS

The first paragraph of the specification (*i.e.*, the priority claim) has been amended to include the patent number of the now-issued parent patent, of which the present application is a continuation.

Amended claims 1-6 and 8-13 and new claims 14-21 are pending in this application. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The pending claims have been amended, and new claims have been added, to recite embodiments wherein the substituent formerly designated R² in originally filed independent claim 1 is benzyl (*i.e.*, phenylmethyl). Support for these amendments is found throughout the specification, for example, in Tables 2, 3A, and 3B (*see* pages 143-145), Tables 5A, 5B, 6, 7A-7F, 8, 9, 10A-10F, 11A-11F, 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 14A, 14B, 15, 16A, and 16B (*see* pages 147-177), Tables 18A, 18B, and 19 (*see* pages 179-180), Table 20 (*see* page 182), and Table 21 (*see* pages 184-187).

New claims 14-21 are also directed to embodiments wherein the R⁴ group is bonded to the right-hand sulfone (–SO₂–) moiety through a carbon atom, as shown in numerous structures throughout the specification.

The pending claims have also been amended to address formalities. For example, in pending dependent 2-6 and 8-13, the articles “a” and “the” have been inserted in the claim preambles as appropriate, and the article “the” has been inserted in place of “a” where antecedent basis exists. Other clarifying amendments have been made that do not affect claim scope.

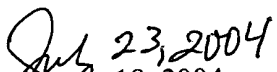
Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Daniel P. GETMAN *et al.*
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/760,125

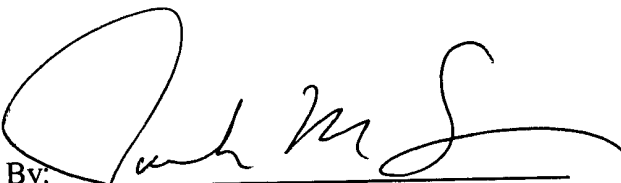
Attorney Docket No. 101765.00006
(2862/9)

Prompt and favorable examination of pending claims 1-6 and 8-21 on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Date: July 23, 2004
~~August 18, 2004~~

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
1001 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-824-3000

By: 
Joseph M. Skerpon
Registration No. 29,864